

OUR FOOD, OUR PEOPLE
OUR HEALTH
Accelerating Healthy Food Policies
to Tackle NCDs



Food & Empowerment

Growing Real Food and Empowering a strong generation of Women and Youth in Agriculture

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\$8 Billion + CARICOM Food Import Bill

————— We are what we eat?

With the CARICOM food import bill approaching \$8-10 bn. it begs the question- Why?

In countries with fertile land, thriving farming communities and closer proximity to fresh foods than most, why do we keep importing and eating foreign foods?  



Women in Agriculture

Why the emphasis on women in Ag?

Women represent the first formal food contact for most human beings- the vast majority of babies are nourished via breast milk. Furthermore, women generally mold the palates of most families, doing the cooking, introducing children to new foods and passing down recipes and food preparation techniques to their children and close relatives. Therefore, women represent the foundation of the food chain and the food security discourse.

The Grass Ceiling

Is Ag a Battle of the Sexes?

Similar to the glass ceiling, women and young farmers are often excluded from larger markets because of barriers to finance, inputs and training.

01. Landholdings

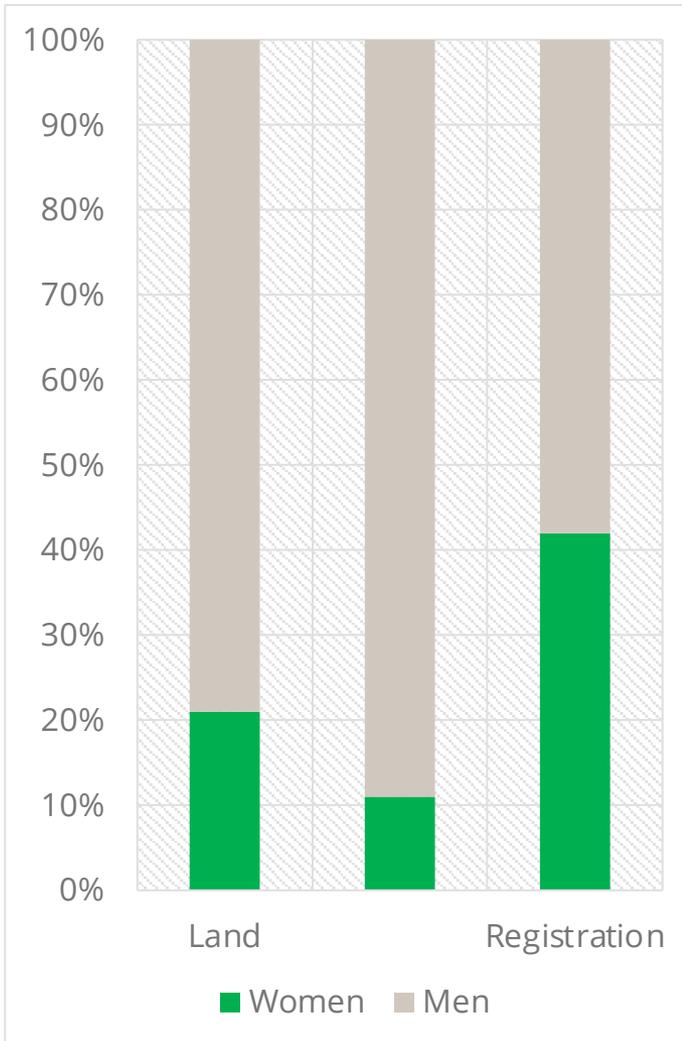
In countries such as Jamaica, women own about 11% of land compared to 89% of landowners who are men. In Dominica the landholdings for female banana farmers was 21% vs 79% of male banana farmers and in St. Lucia, 30% of land is owned by women vs. 70% owned by men.

02. Agricultural Loans

While there is an overall issue, with access to agricultural loans. Less than 2% of Jamaica's commercial lending portfolio is allocated to agriculture with less than 10% of Jamaican farmers having access to credit. This is even more pronounced when it comes to women farmers.

03. Farmer Registration

There are about twice as many male farmers as female farmers, studies have acknowledged that women often are not counted in official statistics as their work might be unpaid on family farms or they might engage in subsistence agriculture.





Our History



2017

Rural Women's Workshop

A one-day leadership summit for rural women workers that focused on empowerment, workers rights, and financial management.



2018

UBC x HD- Sustainable Change Programme

Collaborated with the University of British Columbia by partnering chemical, biological and geological engineering students with rural women farmers to find sustainable agricultural practices, develop skills and develop technical recommendations for the sustainable design of a farm.



Rural Women's Ag-cademy

A six-month capacity-development program that provides monthly classroom-style training on financial literacy and book-keeping, sustainable farming, market linkages and digital literacy.



HD Virtual Ag-cademy

This is a hybrid RWA that was launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, and was completely virtual, this programme focused on an introduction to hydroponics, essentials to agri-business development and nutritional marketing, among other things.



Our Achievements



Impact

Over 300 women have adopted new sustainable agricultural practices and the majority have switched to pesticide-free farming.

Capacity-Development

Improved understanding of sustainable agriculture and adapted crops planted to market demand, taking into account land degradation and climate change.

Innovation

The only agricultural training program available during COVID-19 pandemic, as such our program was used as a replacement to receive certification during the pandemic.

Business Efficiency

Improved business efficiency, large-scale contracts were obtained, determined niche markets and developed additional sources of income from agro-processed goods.

Contact Us



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